

**(11) Trilateral...**

and OBOR in general, Afghanistan will have new vistas and avenues to stabilise its economy by enhancing trade opportunities. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Public ...**

letter from IDLG regarding his appointment. The mayor might return to work once he came back from Kabul, he believed. IDLG spokeswoman Munira Yousafzada said many residents of Herat City had registered complaints against Nayayesh. "Subsequently, we sent a delegation to Herat and shared the issue with the president based on our assessment. The president suspended the mayor," she said, without giving details about the complaints. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Senators ...**

countries, land is provided to investors free of cost. I have two factories in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), for which the land was provided free of cost."

Mohammad Hanif Hanafi, another lawmaker, said "The agents of Iran and Pakistan don't want to see Afghanistan become economically self-reliant."

He said those opposing the deal had connections with land mafia and their attempt was to take money from the AGC in form of commission.

Mohammad Alem Ezidiyar, first deputy chairman, supported AGC investment and said: "We should support investment coming to the country."

He said if there was any problem, it should be resolved legally and no one should stop investment flow to the country.

Some lawmakers demanded investigation to individuals who tried to prevent the AGC from investment in Afghanistan.

Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said a handful of servants of Iran and Pakistan were against Afghanistan's economic progress.

He said the upper house would investigate the contract signed between the AGC and the government. "If there is any issue, it would be resolved through legal ways." (Pajhwok)

**(4) IEC Finalizes...**

budget and security of elections," President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman Shahussain Murtazawi said. The IEC had initially announced that it intended to call in local, regional and international experts to assist with a strategic assessment around implementing an e-voting system.

It is believed that the new voters list would leave significant impact on ensuring the credibility and legitimacy of the electoral process. However, the IEC has said that \$68 million USD is required to execute the plan.

Election monitoring groups and observers have raised their hope that the new plan would ensure transparency and legitimacy of the upcoming elections.

"It is a positive move for ensuring transparency in the elections, but the main issue is that whether all parties and politicians are agreed in this respect," said Jandad Spinghar, chairman of Afghan Civil Society Election Network.

"In the view of the capacity of the election commission and the ongoing political issues between the politicians, the chances for using the e-voting system (in upcoming elections) in the near future is very less," member of Election Watch Afghanistan Habibullah Shinwari said.

Although the IEC has said that upcoming parliamentary and district councils' elections would not take place this year, but the commission has assured that the assessment of all polling centers in the country would be finalized within the next one month and there would be no 'ghost election centers' in the future. (Tolonews)

**(5) ANA Planning...**

commando units and air attacks," Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said.

Meanwhile, a number of provincial officials have confirmed that the Afghan security forces backed by commandos and Air Force have surged their attacks against militants' hideouts.

This new development takes place at a time that over the recent months, the Taliban operatives have tried to infiltrate key towns in the east and north.

In Ghazni, the Afghan army managed to foil several offensives by the Taliban insurgents, said local officials.

"In Waghaz district (in Ghazni), 36

militants were killed and 20 others were wounded," said Ghazni governor Abdul Karim Mateen.

"The main goal of our (military) operation is to secure Gul Tepa district in Kunduz province and to deploy friendly forces over there," said Abdul Wase Milad, Commander of Army's 203 Thunder Corps in Kunduz.

Also in Ghazni's neighborhood Maidan Warkak province, the Taliban launched several attacks on the key highway connecting Ghazni to Kabul.

"They (Taliban) suffered heavy losses. The (military) operations were hailed by tribal elders, because no civilian was harmed during the operations," the Maidan Wardak Police Chief Fahim Qaem said.

Local officials said government forces have increased their night raids and military operations in Helmand and Kunduz provinces where the Taliban fighters have been struggling to gain grounds.

It is said that currently the Afghan Army soldiers are conducting 17 operations on a daily basis including 15 separate operations by commando forces.

Defense Ministry officials said all the military operations are supported by the Afghan Air Force. (Tolonews)

**(6) Returnees' ...**

from \$200 to \$400 last year, when each undocumented repatriating family-- totally numbering around 6,700-- was also given 9,000 afghanis.

About three million and 400,000 dollars had been spent on welfare projects in refugees' townships in 18 provinces of the country during the year, he added.

Main works the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MRRD) did in the past year included extension in the stay of one million and 300,000 legal Afghan refugees in Pakistan until the end of 2017.

He said undocumented Afghan refugees were registered in Pakistan last year, when Iran also extended Afghans' residency cards and temporary passports. Agreement on refugees' deportation issue was finalized with Iran, including 100,000 Afghan refugees children.

Establishment of an electronic system for collecting data about refugees and formulation of some policies and supporting programs for refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were other major steps the MRRD had taken during the year, the minister said. He also informed about achievements with regard to combating corruption in the ministry last year. Balkhi said 42 million afghanis had been saved in the ministry's budget in 1395.

During an audit conducted in the distribution process of residential plots to refugees in Laghman province, Balkhi claimed a widespread corruption was unearthed in the Surkhakan Qarghai Township. He said the accused persons had been introduced to the attorney's office.

The minister said residential plots lost to corruption in Balkh province were being recovered. In Bini Warsak Township of Parwan, 900 acres of land and commercial area and buildings in Qalamwal Min of Khost province had been recovered from usurpers, he said. (Pajhwok)

**(7) No Evidence ...**

Police are responsible for us. What (Bamiyan) police have done was illegal," the spokesman said.

The MoI spokesman Najib Danish said that so far they have not found any evidence which proves a direct involvement of Shaheedani in the plane's diversion. However Danish said the MP's son has been arrested over the airliner saga.

"Five people are in our custody. They are the main suspects. Two of them are in lower ranks and they will be investigated in Bamiyan. The three others including the MP's son will be investigated in Kabul," he added.

The MoI announced on Saturday that it will send the case to the Attorney General's Office for legal proceedings on Sunday. However, the move was postponed for Monday morning.

A Bamiyan-bound flight with 30 passengers on board was forced to return to Kabul last week on Tuesday after angry relatives of two local MPs allegedly prevented the plane from landing.

Reports indicate the relatives of the two MPs converged on the runway at Bamiyan airport and prevented the flight from landing. They also allegedly threw stones at the plane as it tried to touch down.

The plane diversion later sparked strong reaction among the Afghan

public with many accusing the lawmakers in the parliament of breaking the law and bullying. Shaheedani who is accused of being the key player in the episode has rejected the allegations against him. But footages seen by media show that the MP appraise his supporters following the move. Meanwhile, a number of lawmakers have said that Shaheedani's name must be included in the list of main plotters of the incident.

"Unfortunately it is common in Afghanistan lower rank officials are punished instead of their leaders and seniors. Therefore, junior officials or the second and third hand officials have been arrested in Bamiyan case, who will be released gradually when media stops talking about the incident," said Ramazan Bashedost, an MP from Kabul.

The drama unfolded after the two MPs, Ghulam Hussain Naseri and Abdul Rahman Shaheedani, missed their flight at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. Their relatives then forced the incoming plane in Bamiyan to return to Kabul. (Tolonews)

**(8) Several Villages...**

information about the militants' fatalities, the official added.

Kamil Baig Hussaini, a provincial council member said around 25 villages containing highest population of the district, were overrun by militants due to negligence and lack of coordination among security forces.

Meanwhile, Zabihullah Mujahid a spokesman for Taliban militant claimed that security forces suffered heavy casualties in fight with militants during so called Mansouri operation in Tagab district in the past 24 hours.

He said that 13 security posts including three strategic areas and 15 villages were captured by Taliban in Tagab district. A number of weapons and military equipments also captured from Afghan forces, Mujahid said. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Pakistan and ...**

"I am happy to have great discussion with Pakistan Cricket Board and agreed on various plans. We are renewing this relation with a friendly match between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Kabul and then we will return to Pakistan to play one. We have also agreed to play a bilateral series for which dates will be decided later." Mashal added.

Speaking about the relationship between the two countries he said, "We know there is tension in the border but it's my job as chairman of Afghanistan cricket board to keep this interaction between two cricketing nations going and to help governments start something positive. We are trying our best to keep sports, especially cricket, away from politics as well as looking for our national interest. Still, sports is sports and we should use this as a tool to influence the politics arena positively and create a good atmosphere between two friendly and brotherly nations."

He further added, "Relation with Pakistan doesn't mean we don't have relation with India. They are also a strategic partner, a friend and they also support Afghanistan cricket. Pakistan did a great job in the development of Afghanistan cricket and we value both nations." (Agencies)

**(10) Ghazni: ...**

said he had heard the issue from people. "People told us aircrafts land in Taliban controlling areas. We don't have documents or pictures of the scene". The matter has been shared with the central government in Kabul, Mateen added. Ghazni police chief Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhail also confirmed hearing about the issue. There has been no word from the Taliban about the landing of the unknown helicopters.

Few days ago, a helicopter landed in an area controlled by Taliban in northern Sar-i-Pul province. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Khoshi District**

injured district chief had been shifted to Kabul for treatment.

Hamid has been serving as district chief of Khoshi district from the past seven years.

The Taliban have not commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Hundreds...**

and sacrificial meat to thousands of people, as well as financially supporting 50 children from poor families in continuing higher education," he said. Mushtaq added the HCF charity programme was ongoing. Arifa, a blind woman who was among the aid recipients, said: "My

husband is disabled and can't walk. I have to support five children and encounter multiple problems meeting their needs.

"I am happy with the aid I received today," she remarked, asking government officials not to forget the poor during the month of Ramadan. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Taliban ...**

local time in Chardara district. Kunduz is among the relatively volatile provinces in northern Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in its various districts and often carry out insurgency activities.

At least thirteen Taliban insurgents including three prominent leaders of the group were killed in drone strikes conducted in northern Kunduz province of Afghanistan on Thursday, a spokesman for Kunduz police, Inamuddin Rahmani, said, adding that confirmed the airstrike was carried out in Chardara district.

He said the militants were targeted in the vicinity of Esa Khel village, leaving three prominent leaders of the Taliban dead along with ten other insurgents. (KP)

**(14) 11 Security ...**

been killed and some others wounded in the Taliban attack. He said the Taliban-designated district chief for Charchino was also killed during the clashes. (Pajhwok)

**(15) 4 Pakistanis ...**

Daesh ranks; however they were arrested along with two Afghan friends by security forces.

Khogyani didn't go into details, but said the detainees were currently under investigation.

Meanwhile, security forces destroyed two heroin-making factories in Khogyani district on Saturday night.

The governor's spokesman said the factories were located in Stara Tarmai area of the district and were discovered during a raid by police. He said no bullets were fired during the raid.

Meanwhile, the Nangarhar primary court sentenced two persons to five years in jail each and a third person to six months in prison on robbery charges. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Trump Girds...**

creating a new rapid-fire communications unit to respond to the controversy, led by Kushner, senior presidential adviser Steve Bannon and White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus.

Though Kushner has appeared "subdued," he does not plan to step aside as Trump's senior adviser or reduce his responsibilities, the New York Times reported, citing unnamed people close to him. (AFP)

**(17) Macron Makes...**

presidential stature that have dogged him since he launched a wild-card presidential bid just six months ago.

During his very first days in office, he visited Berlin and a French military base in Mali, where the country's troops are fighting Islamic extremism. Then over this past week, he cemented his status as a new global player at a NATO summit in Brussels and a Group of Seven summit in Italy. (AP)

**(18) Germany to...**

and civil service. "We're still holding talks with the Turkish side about Incirlik and we will work on a solution until mid-June," said the German Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. (Reuters)

**(19) With Premier...**

And the German chancellor, a mechanism that has been in place since 2004. In Brussels, the Chinese premier will attend the 19th China-EU leaders' meeting. (Xinhua)

**(20) North Korea...**

of a new-type anti-aircraft guided weapon system", which was aimed at "detecting and striking different targets flying from any direction". KCNA did not give the exact date and location of the drill.

Pyongyang first tested the new weapon system in April last year when some defects had been discovered, but Kim said the latest test verified that all glitches had been "perfectly overcome", KCNA said.

The efficiency of the weapon system "to detect and track targets has remarkably improved and its hitting accuracy has also increased" compared to last year, the young leader was quoted as saying. (AFP) (21) NATO's Parliamentary Spring Session of NATO's Parliamentary Assembly opened in Tbilisi on Friday.

This is the fifth time in its six-decade history that NATO Parliamentary Assembly has held a session in a country outside the NATO countries. (Xinhua) (16) Trump Girds creating a new rapid-fire communications unit to respond to the controversy, led by Kushner, senior presidential adviser Steve Bannon and White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus.

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## Mother of 8 Children Shot Dead; Girl Commits Suicide

MAIMANA - Two women died in separate incidents in the capital and Aandkhui district of northwestern Faryab province, officials said on Sunday.

A security official, who wished to remain anonymous, said a man gunned down his brother's wife and injured a mechanic, snatched his car and fled to Khawaja Sabz posh district. "The accused name is Ghulam Sakhi, today at 2pm he shot dead his brother's wife and then injured a mechanic named Javid."

He said Javid was standing on the bridge in Maimana city. Sakhi stole his car, but the car overturned due to high speed, injuring Sakhi who managed to flee to Khawaja Sabz Posh district.

The motive behind the murder was not known, but police were investigating, a security official said, adding the slain woman's husband was serving a two-year jail sentence.

The woman left behind eight children aged between one and 12 year, a relative of the victim said.

Dr. Samir Anayat, Forensic Department in-charge at the Faryab Public Health Directorate, said that the victim had received six bullets in the head and chest. Khawaja Sabz Posh district administrative head Abdullah Masumi said the accused had been arrested from Kusa Qala village. Meanwhile, an 18-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging inside her house in Ra-

hat Khana village of Aandkhui district.

Sultan Mohammad Sanjar, administrative head of the district, citing family sources said the girl had mental problem and hanged herself from the roof of her house.

A relative of the deceased girl said "she was beautiful and was engaged without her consent." (Pajhwok)

## 7 Taliban Killed, 6 Wounded in Helmand Clashes

LASHKARGAH - At least seven Taliban militants have been killed and six others wounded in clashes with security forces in the Sangin district of southern Helmand province, officials said on Sunday.

Mohammad Rasool Zazai, 215th Maiwand military corps spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Taliban militants attacked security posts in Sangin last night.

Seven attackers were killed and six others were wounded as the security forces retaliated. The security forces escaped unharmed, Zazai said.

He said commando forces carried night search operations in Darwishan locality of Garamsir district last night, seizing a pickup vehicle, a motorcycle, 20 anti-personnel mines and 15 mortar shells.

The Ministry of defense also confirmed the incidents in a press release. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, tweeted that a security forces tank was blown up with a remotely-controlled explosion in Sangin district. (Pajhwok)

## Nearly 100 Afghan Soldiers Killed in a Week

of army and police personnel killed by insurgents in the past week to nearly 100.

Afghan and insurgent officials said Sunday the overnight "insider attack" incident took place at a security outpost in Zabul province where a police guard turned his gun on colleagues.

He shot dead six police, including the commander of the post. Afghan media quoted local officials as saying the shooter later rejoined the Taliban and handed the post over to insurgent control.

The Taliban in the last week has assaulted several Afghan military bases and installations, particularly in volatile southern provinces, killing and wounding scores of security forces.

On Saturday, the first day of the holy Islamic month of Ramadan, a Taliban suicide car bomber in the eastern city of Khost struck a convoy of an Afghan elite force providing security to American forces. The blast killed at least 18 personnel and wounded many others.

Afghan Defense Ministry officials say government forces have also inflicted heavy battlefield casualties on the Taliban in retaliation.

The Islamist insurgency on Saturday rejected as "ignorance of religion" U.N.-led calls for halting hostilities during Ramadan to respect the religious obligation.

Hours after staging the suicide car bombing in Khost, a Taliban spokesman insisted it is fighting "jihad" (holy war) and is a religious obligation.

"Our fight is Jihad and an obligatory worship. And every obligatory act of worship has 70 times more reward in Ramadan," a statement quoted spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid as claiming.

Afghan security forces lost more than 150 personnel in a single Taliban attack last month on a military base outside the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

The uptick in hostilities has also killed and wounded record numbers of civilians, particularly women and children, since the start of the year.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has convened an international peace conference in Kabul in the first week of June where delegates from Afghanistan's immediate neighbors, along with other regional countries, will discuss ways to end the increasingly deadly conflict. (Tolonews)